

REMARKS

Applicants' claims 1-17 are currently pending. Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over US Patent No. 5,859,628 to Ross et al. (hereinafter "Ross") in view of US Patent No. 6,553,379 to Jaeger et al ("Jaeger") as set forth in the Office Action of December 29, 2006.

In the December 29, 2006, Office Action, independent claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are all rejected on the same basis. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Ross teaches all the limitations of those independent claims ,except providing a control switch which can be turned and pushed-in. For that alleged missing element, the Examiner cites to Jaeger. However, a careful reading of Ross reveals that unlike the independent claims pending here there is no description about the first page transition control for transitioning the operation page displayed on said display part and the second page transition control for transitioning the operation page displayed on said display part in response to one of touching the display part of operation of the control switch.

More particularly each of claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 require transitioning an operation page in response to one of touching the display part or operating a switch as follows:

- Claim 10 requires, in part, "a display control means which changes to said first operation page when said judging means judges that said display part is touched, and which changes to the second operation page when receiving said control switch operation signal."

- Claim 11 requires, in part, "a display control means which changes to said first operation page when said judging means judges that said display part is touched and which changes to said second operation page when receiving said control switch operation signal"
- Claim 12 requires, in part, " a display control means which changes to said first operation page having the arrangement of selection items suited for the touch operation when said judging means judges that the touch operation is done to the touch panel and changes to said second operation page having the arrangement of selection items suited for the control switch operation when said judging means judges that the operation of said control switch is done."
- Claim 14 requires, in part, "a display control means which changes to said first operation page in which are arranged detailed selection items suited for the touch operation when said judging means judges that the touch operation is done to the touch panel and which changes to said second operation when said judging means judges that the operation of said control switch is done."
- Claim 15 requires, in part, "a display control means which changes immediately to said first operation page of a layer under the operation page under display when said judging means judges that said touch operation is done to the touch panel and which changes first to said second operation page of said layer under the operation page under display and

then to said first operation page when said judging means judges that the operation of said control switch is done."

- Claim 16 requires, in part, " an execution control means which carries out, when said judging means judges that the touch operation is done to the touch panel, the execution of various functions and various setting in accordance with an arbitrary selection item on the touch panel and which carries out, when said judging means judges that the operation of said control switch is done, only the execution of various functions in accordance with an arbitrary selection item selected by the operation of the control switch."
- Claim 17 requires, in part, "a first page transition control step for performing a first page transition control by which said operation page displayed on said display is transitioned in accordance with said touch operation when it is judged that said display is touched; and a second page transition control step for performing a second page transition control by which said operation page displayed on said display is transitioned in accordance with said control switch operation when it is judged that said control switch is operated."

Neither Ross nor Jaeger teach the above claimed aspects of claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Ross merely teaches a touch responsive screen responsive to a pointing device, and Jaeger merely discloses a rotary switch to make a selection. However, the combination of Ross and Jaeger do not teach the claimed invention of transitioning an operation page in response to one of touching the display part or operating a switch as claimed in each of

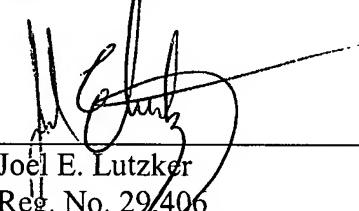
claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Further, the invention of Ross et al relates to a lighting device for the display part, which is unrelated to the invention of the menu items as recited in the claims.

For the reasons articulated above, dependent claims 2-9 and 12 are also not invalid over the combination of Ross and Jaeger. Moreover, as claim 1 is properly understood, it is clear that none of the additional limitations relating to the transitioning an operation page in accordance to the touching of a screen or operation of a control switch, are disclosed in either Ross or Jaeger. Furthermore, Jaeger does not disclose the structure of the control switch as required by claim 7, namely, "said control switch is supported on a shaft extending in a direction so that said control switch is rotatable in a certain range of angle from a reference position of rotation and can be pushed in to a direction perpendicular to the direction of rotation at said reference position of rotation." Indeed, no support is cited to in either Jaeger or Ross for this limitation of claim 7. Similarly, claim 8, which depends from claim 7, is distinguishable over the cited art for the same reasons.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any

extension of time is required, Applicants petition for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 848075-0066.

Respectfully submitted,


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